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中华人民共和国对外经济贸易部

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TRADE OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Beijing, 5 December, 1992

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to extend to you and your delegation my invitation to visit China in December to co-chair with me the seventh session of the Sino-US Joint Committee on Trade and Commerce. The reactivation of the Sino-US Joint Committee on Trade and Commerce, which has been suspended for three years, doubtlessly represents a positive step forward in the Sino-US economic and trade relations. I hope this session will mark the beginning of a new stage of stable development of Sino-US economic and trade relations.

During the past year, the Sino-US bilateral economic and trade relations experienced a period of difficulties and setbacks. However, with joint efforts by our two governments, we successfully managed to conclude "the Sino-US Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights", "the Sino-US Memorandum of Understanding on the Prohibition from Import and Export of Prisoned Labour Products" and "the Sino-US Memorandum

of Understanding on Market Access". The conclusion of these MOUs represents very concrete steps taken by the two governments to maintain and promote the healthy development of bilateral economic and trade relations. It demonstrated that we can always overcome difficulties in the bilateral relations as long as we stand by the principle of equality and mutual benefit and handle matters according to international rules. The fact that the Sino-US Joint Committee on Trade and Commerce meets just on the eve of the New Year augurs well for the development of Sino-US economic and trade relations. I look forward to holding constructive discussions with you during the forthcoming meeting.

The Chinese Government has constantly held that cooperation between China and the United State in the multilateral trading system has important bearing on the bilateral relations particularly in creating a stable environment for bilateral cooperation. I have noticed with great pleasure that the U.S. Delegation has included senior officials from the United States Trade Representative Office. I hope that an Ad hoc Working Group can be set up under JCTC to hold in-depth discussions on the resumption of China's contracting party status in GATT. This constitutes an important aspect in the implementation of the Sino-US Memorandum of Understanding on Market Access. I'd like to propose that as part of the follow-up action in respect of the

bilateral negotiations, we should now enter into tariff negotiations under the GATT framework and explore for solutions to legal issues that need to be addressed in establishing normal relations between China and the United States in the GATT. I consider this is one of the practical steps that the United States can take in honouring its commitment of "staunch support" for China's efforts in resuming its GATT contracting party status. Thanks to our joint efforts, we have been able to overcome numerous difficulties in the past, and I am confident that through our creative work we will be able to establish positive and constructive relationship between China and the United States in the GATT.

I am looking forward to your visit and wish the meeting a great success.

Yours Sincerely,



Li Lanqing
Minister
Ministry of Foreign Economic
Relations and Trade

Mrs. Barbara H. Franklin
Secretary of Commerce
The United States